

Message from the Chief

Chief's Memo – September 18, 2006

CDF Pays Tribute to Fallen Firefighters in Tulare Unit

On behalf of Unit Chief, Ed Wristen, I want to thank all of the CDF personnel, USFS personnel, Tulare County Fire, other local government police and fire agencies, and so many others that helped the CDF Tulare Unit during a very difficult week. The Critical Incident Stress Management team did an extraordinary job. My personal gratitude and that of our entire department goes out to them as they took care of so many people that were hurting from this loss.



As I had breakfast with Chief Wristen the morning after the second day of memorial services for BC Rob Stone and Pilot Sandy Willett, mere words could not explain the level of gratitude that he felt for the assistance the Tulare Unit received from so many people. From covering fire stations, to traffic control during the memorial processions, to working with the media, so many dedicated professionals showed how CDF and our friends cared for the fallen firefighters and their families.



I was inspired by the leadership, compassion, and professionalism of Chief Wristen as he led the CDF Tulare Unit through a very difficult time in their history,

as well all of the CDF family. His entire staff was remarkable as everyone pitched in to make the tribute to Rob and Sandy a memorable and distinguished honor that their families will have in their hearts for years to come.

CDF Firefighters' Honor Guard and the CDF Pipes and Drums Band were simply amazing as they honored their fallen brothers, as only they can. In 99-degree plus temperatures, they marched and played magnificently, bringing tears to the eyes of those attending the memorial ceremonies with the sounds of old traditional bagpipe songs such as "Amazing Grace."

I must also commend Southern Region Chief, Candace Gregory, and Southern Assistant Region Chief, Chuck Maner, for the manner in which they coordinated multiple events associated with this tragic incident; including the fire suppression, rescue mission, fire investigation, crash investigation, and the two memorial services. Additionally, Chief Gregory approved Chief Wristen's request to allow all equipment in the Tulare Unit to be decorated with a decal for one year that honors Rob Stone and Sandy Willett's ultimate sacrifice.



In addition, I have requested, and the Board of Forestry (BOF) has approved, the naming of two trees in the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest in memory of Rob Stone and Sandy Willett. Board Chairman, Stan Dixon, directed BOF staff to work with us to accomplish the wishes of the Tulare Unit.

It was a difficult week for everyone involved, but I am proud of the way we pulled together and properly honored our fallen firefighters, and their families. But, my hope is that this is something we do not get proficient at doing.

Regards,



Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Director / State Fire Marshal

CDF on Monday Night Football

CDF Captain-Paramedic Tim Buckley from the Riverside Unit sat with Governor Schwarzenegger during last week's Monday Night Football game and did a great job in a national TV interview on ESPN. Captain Buckley was attending the game on Sept. 11th and represented CDF as one of the firefighters that responded from California 5 years ago after the terrorist attacks. Tim attended the game with his wife, Shannon.

CDF Fire Captain Rod Delgado and his wife, Karla, also attended the game as guests of Governor Schwarzenegger. Rod is the fire captain who bravely battled wildfire at the "Sawtooth" fire in BDU as all of his belongings were being destroyed by that same fire.

We have acquired permission to post the interview on the CDF site thanks to Capt. Julie Hutchinson and Cheri Patterson in the Riverside Unit. In the interim the interview can be viewed on this website: [Click here to view the video!](#)

Office of State Fire Marshal

As part of continuing efforts to improve State Fire Training, The new and improved publication called "Fireline" is now posted on the OSFM website. This electronic newsletter provides information about classes and services available to our customers in the California's fire service. This will encourage more participation among stakeholders and recruit new instructors as CDF/SFM expands and enhances services.

The strategic plan, which will guide the evolution of State Fire Training, is currently being circulated for stakeholder input. This plan is a result of the recent SFT Summit at which leaders in education and the fire service gathered to express their vision for training California's firefighters of the future. Chief Bill Sager captured the ideas from participants in a powerful model plan that will be the template for training the next generation of California firefighters.

Legislation

The Governor has signed the following bills that have an impact on CDF:

AB 1165 (Bogh) State employees: State Bargaining Unit 8.

Status: Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 229, Statutes of 2006

Summary: Would approve provisions of an addendum to a memorandum of understanding entered into between the state employer and State Bargaining Unit 8, and would provide that those provisions that require the expenditure of funds shall not become effective unless funds for those provisions are specifically appropriated by the Legislature. The bill would provide that if funds for those provisions are not specifically appropriated by the Legislature, the state employer and the affected employee organization shall meet and confer to renegotiate the

affected provisions. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 1423 (Bogh) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Status: Signed by the Governor

Summary: Would on and after January 1, 2007, permit reference to the department, where appropriate and as determined by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, as CAL-FIRE. The bill would also prohibit any supplies, forms, insignias, signs, or logos from being destroyed or changed as a result of the reference authorization and would require that they continue to be used until exhausted or unserviceable.

AB 1784 (Chu) State claims.

Status: Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 163, Statutes of 2006

Summary: Would appropriate specified sums of money from the General Fund to various state agencies to pay a judgment and settlement claims in specified cases. The bill would specify that any funds appropriated in excess of the amounts actually required for these purposes would revert to the General Fund on June 30 of the fiscal year in which the final payment is made. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1835 (Lieber) Minimum wage.

Status: Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 230, Statutes of 2006

Summary: Would increase the minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour, effective on and after January 1, 2007, and to \$8.00 per hour, effective on and after January 1, 2008. This bill contains other related provisions.